STATE OF GLOBAL AIR

Afghanistan

Air Pollution and Health Factsheet

Air pollution was **among the top 5 risk factors for death** in Afghanistan in 2019, accounting for nearly **15% of all deaths** (more than 37 thousand). Considered separately, ambient particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) ranked as the fifth leading risk factor for deaths, and household air pollution (HAP) ranked first. Ozone was not in the top 20 risk factors.

Key statistics at a glance for 2019

100% of the population of Afghanistan lives in areas where $PM_{2.5}$ levels are above the least stringent WHO Interim Target for healthy air (35 µg/m^3)

20% of outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ comes from fossil-fuel combustion (i.e., coal, oil and gas)

14% of deaths due to air pollution are in children under 5

Exposure to Air Pollution

$PM_{2.5}$ (presented as population-weighted annual average concentration)

- **No Change** in 2019 (52 µg/m^3) than in 2010 (52 µg/m^3)
- **Higher** than the global average (44 µg/m^3)
- Afghanistan **ranks seventh** among 21 North Africa and Middle East countries
- **No documented stations** monitored for $PM_{2.5}$ in Afghanistan ***

Ozone (presented as populatiom-weighted seasonal average concentration)

- **Higher** in 2019 (54 ppb) than in 2010 (53 ppb)
- **Higher than** the global average (50 ppb)

HAP (% of population relying on solid fuels for cooking)

- **Lower** in 2019 (62%) than in 2010 (84%)

* Please note that $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations reported here are estimated using a combination of satellite data, ground air quality monitoring data, and chemical transport models. These estimates can be more uncertain where ground monitoring data are limited or not available. In Afghanistan, the best estimate of the annual average exposure is 52 µg/m^3, but it may range from 33 µg/m^3 to 78 µg/m^3.

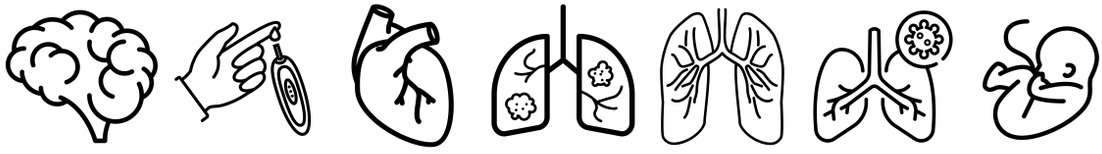
** Based on data from GBD-MAPS - Global Project. Find out more.

*** Based on data from OpenAQ

Health Impacts of Air Pollution

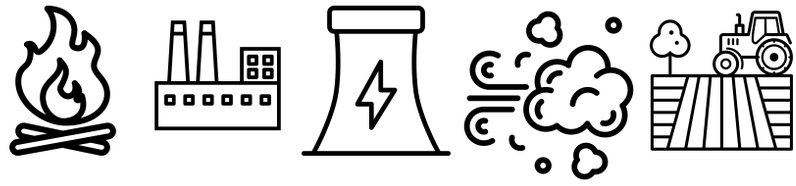
- Air pollution is **among the top 5 risk factors for death** in Afghanistan; **more than 37 thousand** in 2019 deaths were linked to air pollution.
- There are **238 deaths** per 100,000 people due to air pollution in Afghanistan which is **higher than** the global average (86 deaths per 100,000), adjusted for differences in age.
- **14%** of total air-pollution-attributable deaths in Afghanistan are in children under 5, and **17%** are in adults over 70.
- Air pollution reduced life expectancy in Afghanistan by **2.7** years.

Percentage of Deaths (by Cause) Due to Air Pollution in Afghanistan in 2019



39%	26%	36%	63%	33%	47%	17%
of stroke deaths	of diabetes deaths	of ischemic heart disease deaths	of COPD deaths	of lung cancer deaths	of lower-respiratory infection deaths	of neonatal deaths

Top 5 Sources of Outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ and Associated Health Burden in Afghanistan in 2019



	Residential	Industry	Energy	Anthropogenic Dust	Agriculture
Contribution to total outdoor $PM_{2.5}$	8%	5%	12%	5%	5%
Number of $PM_{2.5}$ linked deaths	569	356	853	356	356

For More Information:

For the full report and additional data, please visit www.stateofglobalair.org

Additional Resources:

For open-access, real-time air quality data, visit Open AQ

UN Environment Program Pollution Action Note

@HEISoGA

For more details, please visit www.stateofglobalair.org

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The State of Global Air website is a collaboration between the Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, with expert input from The University of British Columbia.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies